

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sorting e-mail, comprising:

receiving an e-mail from an e-mail source;

identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration code for identifying a vendor from whom the e-mail was forwarded;

identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code for identifying the purpose of the e-mail;

if the e-mail has a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source and the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned by the recipient to the e-mail source, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails having vendor registration codes; and

if the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source or the e-mail does not have a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned to by the recipient to the e-mail source, sending a message to the e-mail source.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of presenting the e-mail with other e-mails having vendor registration codes further comprises presenting the e-mail with other e-mails having the same vendor registration code and vendor registration purpose code.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of identifying whether the e-mail has a registration code further comprises identifying the username from which the email was forwarded and the source from which the e-mail was forwarded.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising

identifying whether the username and source identify a valid contact; and

if the username and source identify a valid contact, presenting the e-mail with

other emails having a username and source identifying a valid contact.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising

identifying a source category corresponding to the source identified for the e-mail; and

presenting the e-mail along with others that were received from the source category.

7. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions thereon for implementing the method of claim 1.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of sorting e-mails, comprising:

receiving an e-mail from an e-mail source;

if the e-mail is from a source that is identified in a contact list, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails received from sources identified in the contact list;

if the e-mail has a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source and the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned by the recipient to the e-mail source, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails received from sources registered to forward e-mails; and

if the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to, the e-mail source or the e-mail does not have a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned by the recipient to the e-mail source, sending a message to the e-mail source.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

if the e-mail is not from a source that is identified in a contact list and the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails that are not from a source that is identified in a contact list and do not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein presenting the e-mail with other e-mails that are not from a source that is identified in a contact list and do not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail comprises presenting the e-mail with other e-mails from the same source category.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising parsing the e-mail to identify at least one of the following: a username from whom the e-mail was forwarded; and a source from which the e-mail was forwarded.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising comparing the username and source to the contact list to determine if the e-mail is from a source that is identified in the contact list.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method recited in claim 8.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of registering an e-mail source to forward e-mail to a user, comprising:

storing a vendor registration code for the e-mail source;

storing a vendor registration purpose code for the e-mail source;

forwarding the vendor registration code to the e-mail source;

forwarding the vendor registration purpose code to the e-mail source;

if an e-mail is received from the e-mail source having the vendor registration code and vendor registration purpose code assigned by the recipient therein, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails having a vendor registration code; and

if an e-mail is received from the e-mail source not having the vendor registration

code or the vendor registration purpose code assigned by the recipient therein, sending a message to the e-mail source.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising: presenting the e-mail with other e-mails having the vendor registration purpose code.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for sorting e-mails, comprising:

- a memory; and

- a processor, wherein said processor is operable to perform the following acts:

 - receive an indication that an e-mail has been received from an e-mail source;

 - if the e-mail source is identified in a contact list, presenting the e-mail with other emails received from sources identified in the contact list;

 - if the e-mail has a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the email source and the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned by the recipient to the e-mail source, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails received from sources registered to forward e-mails; and

 - if the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source or the e-mail does not have a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned by the recipient to the e-mail source, sending a message to the e-mail source.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein said processor is operable to perform the following act:

- if the e-mail source is not from a source that is identified in a contact list and not from a source that is registered to forward e-mails, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails that are not from a source that is identified in a contact list and not from a source that is registered to forward e-mails.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein said processor is operable to perform the following act:

presenting the e-mail with other e-mails that are not from a source that is identified in a contact list and not from a source that is registered to forward e-mails comprises presenting the e-mail with other e-mails from the same source category.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of sorting e-mails, comprising:

receiving an e-mail from an e-mail source;

if the e-mail has a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source and the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned by the recipient to the e-mail source, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails received from sources registered to forward e-mails; and

if the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source or the e-mail does not have a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned by the recipient to the e-mail source, sending a message to the e-mail source.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

if the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails that are not from a source that is registered to forward e-mails.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein presenting the e-mail with other e-mails that are not from a source that is registered to forward e-mails comprises presenting the e-mail with other e-mails from the same source category.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising parsing the e-mail to identify at least one of the following: a username from whom the e-mail was forwarded; and a source from which the e-mail was forwarded.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising determining using the vendor registration code whether the e-mail is from a source registered to forward e-mails.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising determining using the vendor registration purpose code whether the e-mail is from a source registered to forward emails.